

## Message Text

SECRET

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ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 CCO-00 /026 W  
-----119911 071134Z /11/14

Z O 070907Z AUG 78

FM USDEL SECRETARY IN JERUSALEM  
TO AMEMBASSY BEIRUT FLASH  
INFO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE  
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV IMMEDIATE  
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS IMMEDIATE  
AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

S E C R E T SECTO 09023

EXDIS

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y (DTG 070907Z VICE 080907Z)

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PBOR, MILI, LE, IS US

SUBJECT: SOUTH LEBANON: LETTER FROM THE SECRETARY TO FOREIGN  
MINISTER BOUTROS

1. PLEASE DELIVER FOLLOWING LETTER TO FOREIGN MINISTER  
BOUTROS AND/OR GIVE COPY TO SARKIS AT LUNCH AS YOU  
JUDGE APPROPRIATE:

2. QTE DEAR MR. MINISTER: THE UNITED STATES BELIEVES  
IT ESSENTIAL THAT A WAY OUT OF THE PRESENT IMPASSE  
IN SOUTH LEBANON BE FOUND PROMPTLY WHICH WILL BE  
ACCEPTABLE TO BOTH LEBANON AND ISRAEL. DURING MY  
VISIT TO ISRAEL I HAVE HAD THE OPPORTUNITY TO DISCUSS  
THE QUESTION IN DEPTH AND HAVE BEEN ASSURED BY MR.  
BEGIN THAT HIS GOVERNMENT HAS NO OBJECTION TO THE  
STATIONING IN SOUTH LEBANON OF THE LEBANESE UNIT NOW BLOCKED AT  
KAWKABA. THE IMMEDIATE DIFFICULTIES WITH PASSAGE  
OF THE FORCE RELATE TO THE AREA OF DEPLOYMENT, THE ROUTE

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CHOSEN AND TO THE STATUS OF MAJOR HADDAD. THE ISRAELI GOVERNMENT  
FEELS IT HAS AN OBLIGATION TO THE  
INHABITANTS OF THE AREA AND TO MAJOR HADDAD  
IN PARTICULAR TO SEE TO IT THAT THEIR SENSE OF  
SECURITY IS MAINTAINED. I AM SURE THAT THE LEBANESE  
GOVERNMENT ALSO WANTS THE PEOPLE OF THE AREA TO ENJOY  
SECURITY AND CONFIDENCE IN THE MISSION OF THE LEBANESE

ARMY. THE PROBLEM IS HOW TO RECONCILE THAT WITH THE NEED TO REESTABLISH LEBANESE AUTHORITY IN SOUTH LEBANON AS VISUALIZED IN UNSC RESOLUTION 425.

3. AFTER DISCUSSIONS WITH MEMBERS OF THE ISRAELI GOVERNMENT, I BELIEVE THAT THE FOLLOWING PRACTICAL ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE IMMEDIATE TASK OF DEPLOYING THE LEBANESE FORCE SHOULD BE SERIOUSLY CONSIDERED:

A. WE UNDERSTAND FROM THE UN THAT THE FOLLOWING ARRANGEMENT IS BEING DISCUSSED AUGUST 7 BETWEEN HADDAD AND REPRESENTATIVES OF THE LEBANESE BATTALION. ONE COMPANY OF THE LEBANESE FORCE WOULD BE TRANSPORTED BY UN HELICOPTERS TO TIBNIN. THE REST OF THE UNIT WOULD BE DEPLOYED NEAR ITS PRESENT POSITION. THE ISRAELI GOVERNMENT SUPPORTS THIS ARRANGEMENT.

B. THE QUESTION OF MAJOR HADDAD'S STATUS WILL BE SET ASIDE UNTIL THE PRESENT CRISIS IS TERMINATED AFTER WHICH IT SHOULD BE SETTLED BY MUTUAL AGREEMENT THROUGH DIRECT CONTACTS BETWEEN THE PARTIES CONCERNED.

4. I AM WELL AWARE OF THE POLITICAL IMPORTANCE TO YOUR GOVERNMENT OF A SETTLEMENT OF THE HADDAD ISSUE NOW. AFTER DISCUSSING POSSIBILITIES HERE, HOWEVER, I AM CONVINCED THAT THE COMPROMISE DESCRIBED IN POINTS A AND B ABOVE, ALTHOUGH IMPERFECT, IS THE BEST WE ARE GOING TO BE ABLE TO REACH AT THIS POINT.

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THIS ARRANGEMENT WOULD RESULT IN THE DEPLOYMENT OF THE LEBANESE ARMY IN SOUTH LEBANON AND A CLEAR REASSERTION OF LEBANESE SOVEREIGNTY TO THAT REGION. IT IS JUST THIS OBJECTIVE THAT YOUR GOVERNMENT AND MINE HAVE BEEN WORKING SO HARD TO ACHIEVE. THE ALTERNATIVE, A RETREAT TO THE NORTH BY THE LEBANESE FORCE, IS IN MY OPINION UNTHINKABLE.

5. I WOULD APPRECIATE YOUR DISCUSSING THIS WITH YOUR GOVERNMENT AND INFORMING AMBASSADOR PARKER WHETHER IT IS ACCEPTABLE. PLEASE BE ASSURED, MR. MINISTER, OF MY HIGHEST REGARDS, SINCERELY, CYRUS VANCE. END QUOTE.

6. YOU MAY TELL SARKIS AND BOUTROS THAT GOI HAS AGREED TO THE PROPOSED PRACTICAL ARRANGEMENTS OUTLINED ABOVE REGARDING MOVEMENT OF THE LEBANESE FORCE. IF THERE IS ANY ADJUSTMENT IN THE WORDING OF THIS MESSAGE YOU WOULD RECOMMEND TO MAKE IT MORE PERSUASIVE TO THE GOL, YOU MAY MAKE IT PROVIDED YOU DO NOT CHANGE THE ESSENCE OF THE PROPOSAL-- WHICH WE HAVE DISCUSSED WITH GOI.

7. YOU WILL NOTE THAT WE HAVE DROPPED IN LETTER  
TO BOUTROS PHRASE WHICH SAYS HADDAD "WHO HAS  
BEEN COMMANDING REGULAR LEBANON FORCES IN THE MARJAYOUN-  
QULAYA AREA." WE THOUGHT THIS MIGHT BE PROVOCATIVE  
TO GOL, BUT IF YOU HAD A SPECIAL REASON FOR  
INCLUDING IT THEN PUT IT BACK IN.

VANCE

SECRET

NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** Z  
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**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** n/a  
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**Decaption Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
**Decaption Note:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
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**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
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**Review Markings:**  
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